

H. Res. 471

In the House of Representatives, U. S.,

July 25, 1994.

Whereas in 1988, the Burmese regime brutally suppressed nationwide pro-democracy demonstrations, resulting in the deaths of several thousand people and the imprisonment of several thousand others;

Whereas in 1989, the Burmese regime placed under house arrest Aung San Suu Kyi, the daughter of Burma's founding father and the most prominent figure in the pro-democracy movement;

Whereas in May 1990, the Burmese people in free and fair elections awarded over 80 percent of the National Assembly seats to the National League for Democracy;

Whereas the military regime responded to this expression of the will of the Burmese people not only by refusing to relinquish power, but by further cracking down on opposition politicians and those who supported democracy and human rights in Burma;

Whereas the inhumane practices of the regime prompted a quarter million Rohingya refugees to flee into Bangladesh, where most remain today in refugee camps;

Whereas in 1991, Aung San Suu Kyi was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her efforts on behalf of a peaceful transition to democracy in Burma;

Whereas in 1993, several past winners of the Nobel Peace Prize, having been denied permission to visit Burma, traveled to Thailand to call for the release of Aung San Suu Kyi;

Whereas martial law remains in effect in Burma today, with hundreds of political prisoners in custody, human rights frequently violated, and national minorities driven into exile;

Whereas the Government of Burma has denied international humanitarian agencies free and confidential access to prisoners;

Whereas credible reports continue to link Burmese Government officials to the illegal trafficking into Thailand, for purposes of forced prostitution, of approximately 10,000 Burmese women and girls each year, many of whom are deported back to Burma infected with the virus that causes the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (commonly referred to as the “HIV virus”);

Whereas the national convention convened by the Burmese Government in January 1993 to begin work on a new constitution does not have the mandate of the Burmese people, not appear to be progressing toward putting political power in the hands of a freely elected civilian government;

Whereas the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and United Nations General Assembly have adopted consensus resolutions deploring the human rights situation in Burma and expressing grave concerns about the lack of progress toward democracy as well as abuses such as summary and arbitrary executions, torture, forced labor,

and oppressive measures against women and ethnic and religious minorities;

Whereas Burma has for many years been the world's largest producer of opium and heroin;

Whereas the United States Government in each of the past 5 years has denied the Government of Burma certification under chapter 8 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 due to a lack of cooperation on narcotics control efforts;

Whereas the problem of drug production and trafficking in Burma cannot be adequately addressed until there is a restoration of democracy in that country;

Whereas credible reports continue to link Burmese Government officials and military officers to drug trafficking;

Whereas since 1988 the United States has been in the forefront of international efforts to promote democracy and human rights in Burma;

Whereas in 1992, the House of Representatives adopted House Resolution 473, which condemned human rights abuses in Burma and called upon the President to seek a mandatory international arms embargo against Burma;

Whereas in fiscal year 1993 the Congress earmarked \$1,000,000 to support assistance for Burmese refugees and students on both sides of the Thai/Burma border;

Whereas United States corporations are under increasing pressure from stockholders to divest their holdings in Burma and otherwise to refuse to do business in Burma so long as the current military regime continues to abuse the political and human rights of its people;

Whereas the Government of Thailand has invited the Burmese regime to participate in some of the meetings of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in July 1994;

Whereas the Government of Thailand has prohibited senior officials of the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma from entering Thailand;

Whereas July 19, 1994, will mark the 5th anniversary of Aung San Suu Kyi's imprisonment;

Whereas in March 1994 the United Nations Commission on Human Rights noted measures taken by the Government of Burma (including the reopening of universities, the release of over 2,000 political prisoners, the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding providing for a United Nations Commission on Human Rights presence in Arakan province to monitor the voluntary repatriation and reintegration of Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh, and the achievement of cease-fire agreements with several ethnic and religious minority groups in Burma), but at the same time deplored the continued seriousness of the human rights situation in Burma; and

Whereas the Government of Burma has for the first time permitted meetings between foreign visitors and political prisoners (including Aung San Suu Kyi), but continues to deny the United Nations special rapporteur access to Aung San Suu Kyi: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved,*

1 **SECTION 1. ACTIONS THAT SHOULD BE TAKEN BY THE**
2 **GOVERNMENT OF BURMA.**

3 It is the sense of the House of Representatives that
4 the Government of Burma should—

5 (1) immediately and unconditionally release
6 Burma's political prisoners, including Aung San Suu
7 Kyi;

8 (2) permit the transfer of political power to an
9 elected civilian government based upon the results of
10 the 1990 election;

11 (3) fully respect the human rights and fun-
12 damental freedoms that are the birthright of all peo-
13 ples;

14 (4) end the practice of forced labor, including
15 portering for the military;

16 (5) allow free and confidential access to all pris-
17 oners, including prisoners of conscience, by inter-
18 national humanitarian agencies;

19 (6) permit international human rights organiza-
20 tions regular access to villages and detention centers
21 to monitor the repatriation of Burmese victims of il-
22 legal trafficking into Thailand for purposes of forced
23 prostitution;

24 (7) implement fully the Memorandum of Under-
25 standing with United Nations Commission on
26 Human Rights and create the necessary conditions

1 to ensure an end to the flows of refugees to neigh-
2 boring countries and to facilitate the speedy repatri-
3 ation and full reintegration, under conditions of
4 safety and dignity, of those who have already fled
5 Burma;

6 (8) respect fully the obligations set forth in the
7 1949 Geneva Conventions, in particular the obliga-
8 tions in common article III, and make use of such
9 relief services as may be offered by impartial hu-
10 manitarian bodies; and

11 (9) take effective law enforcement actions
12 against those individuals within the Burmese Gov-
13 ernment (including the Burmese military), as well as
14 those outside the government, who are engaged in
15 the production and trafficking of illicit narcotics.

16 **SEC. 2. ACTIONS THAT SHOULD BE TAKEN BY THE GOV-**
17 **ERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES.**

18 Is it further the sense of the House of Representa-
19 tives that the President, the Secretary of State, and other
20 United States Government officials and representatives
21 should—

22 (1) urge the Government of Burma to release,
23 immediately and unconditionally, Aung San Suu Kyi
24 and other political prisoners;

1 (2) maintain the current United States ban on
2 all forms of nonhumanitarian assistance to Burma;

3 (3) disperse the funds previously appropriated
4 to support assistance for Burmese refugees and stu-
5 dents along the Thai/Burma border;

6 (4) maintain current limitations on the provi-
7 sion of bilateral narcotics control assistance to the
8 Government of Burma until that government dem-
9 onstrates a genuine commitment to combating the
10 scourge of illicit narcotics production and trafficking
11 while continuing, and if appropriate, strengthening
12 international efforts through the United Nations
13 Drug Control Program to reduce and eliminate the
14 massive heroin production and trade from Burma
15 that now threatens the world;

16 (5) continue to oppose loans to Burma in ac-
17 cordance with chapter 8 of part I of the Foreign As-
18 sistance Act of 1961;

19 (6) consider imposing further economic sanc-
20 tions against Burma, and encourage other members
21 of the international community to take similar steps;

22 (7) elevate the issues of democracy and human
23 rights in Burma in the conduct of United States re-
24 lations with other members of the international com-
25 munity, particularly in coordination with Japan,

1 China, and the members of the Association of South-
2 east Asian Nations;

3 (8) maintain United States support for the ap-
4 pointment by the United Nations Secretary General
5 of the special envoy to focus on conflict resolution as
6 the basis of national reconciliation and the restora-
7 tion of democracy in Burma;

8 (9) urge the Government of Thailand to work
9 with the Government of Burma to investigate the in-
10 volvement of border policy in both countries in the
11 illegal trafficking of women and girls into Thailand
12 for purposes of forced prostitution;

13 (10) ensure that, during the July 1994 Post-
14 Ministerial Conference of the Association of South-
15 east Asian Nations, the Secretary of State calls on
16 the members of the Association of Southeast Asian
17 Nations to support the international consensus on
18 Burma by urging the Government of Burma to un-
19 conditionally release Aung San Suu Kyi and to indi-
20 cate its willingness to cooperate with a special envoy
21 appointed by the United Nations Security General;

22 (11) maintain the unilateral United States
23 arms embargo against Burma, and encourage the
24 other members of the international community, most
25 particularly People's Republic of China, Thailand,

1 and the other members of the Association of South-
2 east Asian Nations to prohibit arms sales and trans-
3 fers to Burma;

4 (12) encourage other members of the inter-
5 national community to halt all nonhumanitarian as-
6 sistance to Burma or, at a minimum, to condition
7 any new official assistance on significant progress by
8 the Government of Burma toward respecting the
9 human rights and fundamental freedoms of its peo-
10 ple;

11 (13) encourage the legislatures of other nations
12 to call for the restoration of a democratic govern-
13 ment in Burma, including the release from prison of
14 Aung San Suu Kyi and the other parliamentarians
15 elected in 1990; and

16 (14) continue to encourage the United Nations
17 and its specialized agencies operating in Burma—

18 (A) to use particular care to ensure that
19 their activities meet basic human needs, do not
20 benefit the present military regime in Rangoon,
21 and promote the enjoyment of internationally
22 recognized human rights, and

- 1 (B) to work through nongovernmental or-
- 2 ganizations to the greatest possible extent.

Attest:

Clerk.